

WEIGHED AND WANTING

A great deal is being made by the Republican press of the country, of the fact that our exports are enormous as compared with our imports, and that the former are still growing while the latter are declining. This is triumphantly referred to as one of the great blessings of the Dingley tariff. But this so-called "blessing" is a two-edged sword which cuts several ways. Let us see.

"Is this a normal condition of trade?" asks the American Banker. "Europe must sell to us if it is to be expected to keep on buying of us. It is today buying more than ever without selling us more than ever. This cannot go on forever, and for that reason the enthusiasm which current statements of our foreign trade awakens, in a great many quarters, is rather ill-judged." In other words, the Dingley tariff, if it can be credited with this result, is acting on our financial life just as alcoholic stimulants act on the physical life of the individual, causing a temporary excessive activity to be followed by a greater and disastrous reaction.

Again, if the Dingley tariff is the cause of the decline of our imports, then is it a fraud, a failure and a measure altogether unconstitutional. The constitution of the United States neither permits nor knows such a thing as a tariff for protection. The only tariff it sanctions or even knows is for the purpose of national revenue, in order that direct taxation for federal expenses may be avoided. Hence, all questions of tariff must come before and be originated by the Ways and Means committee, under the lead of ways and means for raising federal revenue. Now, it is notorious that the present tariff is not raising sufficient revenue for running expenses of the federal government. Senator Hanna himself acknowledges this, and makes it the ground of his assertion that the Dingley tariff law must be revised. If, then, the assertion made by its friends that the Dingley tariff is the cause of the falling off in imports, is true, then that bill is the cause of failure in revenue from imports, and as such revenue is the only constitutional ground for a tariff, the Dingley bill is a failure, a fraud and altogether unconstitutional, according to the claims of its own friends.

Again, these enormous exports have been largely composed of manufactured articles as distinguished from the raw material. In other words, our manufacturers, who have been demanding so loudly and successfully a tariff on imports to protect them from European competition here at home, have been able to take their products to Europe, pay their transportation charges, and even then undersell the European manufacturers in their own market. Such being the case, anyone can see that there is no need of a tariff for protection at all. All that such tariff does is to make the American consumer pay more for an article than the European consumer pays for the same article, even after the manufacturer has paid transportation charges on it. Yes, there is another thing this tariff does. It not only compels the American con-

sumer to pay for the American article more than the European consumer pays for the same American article, but by driving away imports this tariff fails to raise revenue and thus imposes on the American consumer the additional burden of direct federal taxes.

But there is another aspect of this export business to which the people are just beginning to awake, and which eastern papers are just beginning to discuss. These enormous exports and declining imports are due not to the fact that we can produce more cheaply than our foreign competitors, but to the appalling condition that our home demand for commodities is so poor that the importers have ceased to bring in foreign products, and our own manufacturers are compelled to sell abroad at anything they can get. Why, then, is there this lack of a home demand? Because the single gold standard has contracted the circulation into the hands of the few and left the masses without means of purchasing.

TO MODEST A CLAIM.

In a recent issue of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, the following telegram was published from Washington, D. C.:

Gov. Miguel A. Otero, of New Mexico, thinks the Territory can show the banner Republican county of the United States in the recent election. In a letter which was received here today the governor writes: "Valencia county cast 1,634 votes, of which Ferguson (Dem) received 18. From this showing, being an endorsement of the St. Louis platform, New Mexico ought not to have much trouble regarding statehood."

In this as in all other matters, our governor is too modest by far. There are several other particulars in which Valencia county takes rank as the banner Republican county of the United States, and these the governor should have mentioned, for the credit of New Mexico and the Republican party.

One is that there is not a paper published in the country in either English or Spanish or any other language.

Another is that there is not a non-sectarian public school in the county. Of course, these two things, no schools and no papers, eminently qualify the voters of that county for "an endorsement of the St. Louis platform."

Another particular of this banner county is that the size of its Republican majority, always suited to the exigencies of the party, has come to be a standing joke among all parties, the fact being spoken of in pleasing simile as "voting the sheep in Valencia."

How this was done was very plainly brought to light when the late Tranquillo Luna ran against F. A. Manzanera for congress, and the latter was compelled to contest for the seat to which he had been elected and which he gained and so ably filled. In that contest it was shown that the registration in many precincts was in alphabetical order, including dozens and scores and hundreds of names never known in the county; and furthermore, the voting was in the same alphabetical order, from top to bottom of the registration lists, and for the Republican candidate. So glaringly absurd as well as corrupt was this farce of an election, that even a Republican con-

gress was compelled to seat Mr. Manzanera over his Republican competitor.

Certainly our governor was too modest in his claims for Valencia as the banner Republican county of the United States.

"OFF YEAR" CONGRESSMEN

The rule of electing a congress opposed in politics to the president in office has been singularly prevalent in this country for a great many years, says the Boston Herald, though the exceptions to it are more numerous than those who have confined it to one term of President Grant's administration have stated.

It really began as far back as President Van Buren's administration which resulted from the election of 1836. In 1838 the Whigs elected a majority of the members of the house of representatives, on the face of the returns, and a majority of Whigs had certificates of election; but the Democrats got up a contest against five Whig members from New Jersey, who were chosen on a general ticket, and with the aid of a partisan Democratic clerk of the previous house, with whom was the power of calling the roll of members, prevented them taking their seats to organize the house. As it was, however, without the New Jersey votes, the Whigs defeated the regular Democratic candidate for speaker, and chose R. M. T. Hunter, of Virginia, who was regarded as an Independent Democrat, to the place.

The rule was followed regularly until 1863, when President Lincoln succeeded in having a Republican house, for the first time breaking it. It was broken again in 1871, during President Grant's administration, but not in the period following until 1877, with President Cleveland in power. It has held since that time just twelve years, when President McKinley is apparently to prove the fourth exception.

In New York some congressional candidates return expense accounts as high as \$7,500 for the campaign. As the salary is but \$5,000 with many expenses to be deducted, it will be seen that several spent nearly as much for the office as the salary will be for two years. Where does the recompense come in? The positions which have been bought will be sold. The man who has hypothecated his salary to secure the office, must make himself whole by bargain, intrigue, corruption and direct sale. In New Mexico, during the recent campaign, even more was paid for office proportionately. Can any one doubt as to how compensation will be secured? New Mexico should have a law like New York requiring candidates to make oath to the amounts they spend.

The prediction has been freely indulged in that as the result of the recent election of delegate to congress New Mexico will speedily acquire statehood. Why, of course! When Speaker Reed sees Pedro climbing up the capitol steps at Washington, he will hand statehood right out through the window to the New Mexico delegate. Everybody, even the Democrats, knows that—Rosalva Register.

LIVE STOCK RECORD.

The National Live Stock association has issued a bulletin on the movement of southern cattle through Colorado to adjoining states during the season which ended November 15, with comparisons.

The movement shows a heavy decrease for the past season. The total number of head inspected through this state was 280,994 against 372,689 for 1897. The falling off is believed to be largely due to the war scare at the commencement of the season, many cattle that had been contracted to be moved being forfeited by the contractors and are still in the south.

Another cause of the decrease is the high prices that have prevailed and which prevented the northern range buyers from taking their usual number. In 1895 Montana took 78,955 cattle from the south, while this year the total was only 10,081, a tremendous falling off. The decrease in Wyoming is nearly as bad, showing a falling off of from 40,000 in 1895 to less than 8,000 this year.

Cattle moved from the following territory are as follows: Texas, 45,550; New Mexico, 67,581; Arizona, 120,053; Old Mexico, 39,503; California, 8,247. The greatest falling off is from Old Mexico, the receipts last year from that country being 72,748.

EVEN the LAS VEGAS OPTIC man has crawled out from under the Democratic party wreckage far enough to find that something happened here in New Mexico on the 8th day of November last.—Socorro Chieftain.

Where this writer came from the height of degradation was considered to be in being barked at by a "yaller dorg," tied under a mover's wagon, bound "from North Caliny to Injanny." But the "OPTIC man" now realizes that there is a deeper depth. It is to be considered slow by the Socorro Chieftain.

FRANCE, while refusing to permit Dreyfus to return home during his new trial, has made the wonderful concession, amounting almost to a confession of his innocence, of allowing him to communicate with his wife. French methods of trial and justice are very different from ours.

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